

**INFORMATION REPORT
OF THE
CENSUS DATA ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



**Indiana Legislative Services Agency
200 W. Washington St., Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789**

November 2013

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Census Data Advisory Committee

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**Chris Baker, Fiscal Analyst
Robert Rudolph, Attorney**

November 2013

A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.

INFORMATION REPORT

Census Data Advisory Committee

I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE

The Indiana General Assembly enacted legislation during the 2013 legislative session assigning the following topics for the Census Data Advisory Committee to study:

- HEA 1311-2013, SECTION 54 (election matters):

- (1) Study the standards for determining residency for purposes of voting, candidacy, and holding office in Indiana (IC 3-5-5).
- (2) Study allegations of voter suppression of African-Americans, Latinos, other ethnic minorities, and the elderly.
- (3) Study allegations of election fraud occurring in the:
 - (A) absentee voting process;
 - (B) candidate filing process;
 - (C) voter registration process; and
 - (D) voting process.
- (4) Study methods for improving election administration by reducing lines at polling places.
- (5) Study methods for reducing the cost of the election process.
- (6) Study methods for enabling an emergency first responder responding to an emergency declaration to receive an absentee ballot or absentee ballot application by electronic mail or facsimile (fax) machine.
- (7) Study the impact of sending written communications to a voter containing false vote history information regarding that voter.
- (8) Study issues related to redistricting conducted by local units of government.

- SEA 250-2013, SECTION 2 (petition carriers):

- (1) Study electioneering at the polls, vote centers, the office of the circuit court clerk, and satellite offices.
- (2) Make any recommendations for legislation as the committee considers appropriate.

- SEA 518-2013, SECTION 105 (various election law matters):

- (1) Study methods for enabling an emergency first responder responding to an emergency declaration to receive an absentee ballot or absentee ballot application by electronic mail or fax.
- (2) Study the impact of sending to a voter written communications containing false vote history information regarding that voter.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM

The Committee met three times during the 2013 interim session: on August 29, October 9, and October 23.

During the August 29 meeting the Committee heard testimony on topics (1) and (3) under HEA 1311-2013. Persons who testified included Representative Peggy Mayfield, Election Division co-directors Brad King and Trent Deckard, as well as co-counsel Leslie Barnes, Amos Brown, Julia Vaughn representing Common Cause, Ruth Greenwood representing the Chicago

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, and Danielle Coulter representing the Association of Indiana Counties.

The October 9 meeting was used to study topics (4), (5), and (8) under HEA 1311-2013. Persons who testified included Mr. King; Mr. Deckard; Ms. Vaughn; Beth White, Marion County Clerk; Andrew Berger representing the Association of Indiana Counties; and Professor Kelsey Kauffman of DePauw University.

The October 23 meeting was devoted to the Secretary of State testifying in response to the testimony offered by Ms. Greenwood during the August 29 meeting in regard to the topic of voter suppression in Indiana elections. The Committee also heard testimony on topics (1) and (2) under SEA 518-2013 and topic (1) under SEA 250-2013. The additional persons who testified included Christa Coffey, Tippecanoe County Clerk; Wendy Hudson, Elkhart County Clerk; Mr. Deckard; and Ms. Coulter.

III. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to the lack of a quorum at the October 23 meeting, the Committee was not able to make any findings of fact nor recommend draft legislation for the 2014 legislative session.

Meeting minutes for the Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/interim/committee/cdac.html>